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He will before long communicate to the American Academy a full account of it."

The Times containing the news of Mr. Bond's discovery did not reach Mr. Dawes at Wateringbury till December 4,[*] but on the evening of December 3 an appearance resembling that remarked by Mr. Bond had been noticed by Mr. Lassell, then on a visit to Wateringbury. Mr. Lassell's description, taken from a letter to the Astronomer Royal, is as follows:—

"1850, Dec. 3. Being on a visit of a few days at Wateringbury, the residence of my friend the Rev. W. R. Dawes, the clouds, which had covered the sky uniformly for more than 24 hours, suddenly cleared off about $9^{h}\cdot0$, when we went into the observatory, and turned the telescope, by Merz, of 6⅓ ins. aperture, and 102·5 ins. focus, on the planet *Saturn*. The eyepiece principally applied was an excellent single lens, magnifying 298 times.

"On putting my eye to the telescope, I was forcibly struck by the beauty of the image, and set myself diligently to observe whatever might present itself. The annexed diagram[†] is an attempt to represent the planet, with especial reference to an unusual appearance which attracted my eye. After surveying the planet for some time, I was struck with a remarkable phenomenon, which, referring to the diagram, I shall proceed, as well as I can, to describe.

"It appeared as if something like a *crape veil* covered a part of the sky within the inner ring, designated by the letter (*a*). This extended about half way between what I should have formerly considered the inner edge of the inner ring and the limb of the planet, while there was a darker, ill-defined boundary line (*b*) separating this crape-like appearance from the solid body of the inner ring. There was an exceedingly thin line, or shadow, running along the southern edge of the northern portion of the ring where it crossed the planet, and this line seemed somewhat broader at each end, where it touched the limbs of the planet. Mr. Dawes had previously drawn my attention to the appearance of this line before scrutinising the planet."

Extract of a Note from Mr. Hind to the Astronomer Royal.

"Mr. Lassell will probably have written to you relative to a new appearance about *Saturn*, probably the same as that from which Professor Bond has inferred the existence of an interior ring, according to extracts from Boston newspapers, which have been copied into the London daily journals.

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[*] The *independence* of the Wateringbury Observations is of little importance in this case, as Messrs. Dawes and Lassell are too accomplished and experienced observers to see what they wish to see. Their testimony to Mr. Bond's discovery has, however, additional interest and value from this cause.

[†] This diagram is not given, as it was thought better to make use of a more finished portrait by Mr. Dawes. The letters *a* and *b* refer to the outer and inner edges of Mr. Bond's ring.

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"Last evening, about nine o'clock, I had an excellent view of the planet under magnifying powers of 200 and 320, and on careful examination I noticed, chiefly on the side following in right ascension, a faintly illuminated border of light, partly filling up what usually appears to be the black ground of the heavens between the ball and interior edge of inner ring. Its breadth seemed to me about half that of the outer ring, and though I could not discern anything like a division between the faint light and the interior edge of the ring, this might very possibly be owing to want of higher power, which the night did not bear advantageously. The inner edge was *at times* very well defined. The appearance was steadily visible on the side following in right ascension, but I could only perceive it by momentary glimpses on the preceding one. Mr. Lassell's account of his observations upon *Saturn* with Mr. Dawes' refractor, Dec. 3, is perfectly in accordance with the phenomenon I have alluded to above. My observation is therefore merely in consequence of this notification from Mr. Lassell."

A very beautiful drawing of *Saturn*, by Mr. De la Rue, as seen in his 13-inch reflector, will be exhibited at the January meeting. It fully confirms Mr. Bond's discovery, and Mr. Dawes' sketch.

On the Ring of Saturn. By the Rev. W. R. Dawes.

"After the re-establishment of my observatory at my present residence, until the last week in November, the state of the air was very unfavourable for observation. During that week and the first of this month, some good opportunities have occurred; and I beg leave to lay before the Society a few extracts from my observatory journal relating to the telescopic appearances of the ring of *Saturn*, which have been in some respects remarkable.

"1850, Nov. 23. With 8½-foot equatoreal refractor. *Saturn*; power 125. Very brilliant and sometimes sharply defined. Now and then fancied a faint lucid point near the following arm of the ring; but it was not satisfactorily verified with 425. While looking steadily for it (with power 425) some very good views of the planet occurred, and I sometimes suspected that the outer ring had a short and narrow line upon it near its extremity. On scrutinising the preceding arm, I occasionally get the same impression. *Query*, Is the division in the outer ring becoming visible again? *Mem. Ask Lassell to look for it.*"

The following morning I received a letter from Mr. Lassell, dated Nov. 22, in which he says: "Last night, in about a single hour of *fine* sky, I was favoured with a view of *Saturn*, accompanied by his eight satellites; some of them in trying positions." Then follows a diagram of their positions in reference to the planet, at $8^h\ 40^m$ G. M. T.; and also a larger diagram of the planet itself. Mr. Lassell then adds: "I had repeated impressions of a secondary division; and, if it be real, it is one-third of the breadth of the outer ring from its outer edge. The suspicion was the same from both ansæ . . . . Powers from 219 to 614; full aperture always:" viz. 24 inches.

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